

DRABA BOREALIS IN EASTERN AMERICA. — In the discussion of the plants which in eastern America have passed as *Draba incana* Mr. Knowlton and I referred¹ briefly to a species of the Behring Sea region, *D. borealis* DC., which has been known only from northwestern America and adjacent Asia. While exploring the bleak exposed shores of Cap Enragé, outside the harbor of Bic on the lower St. Lawrence, Mr. J. F. Collins and I were greatly pleased, therefore, to find in July last very characteristic specimens of this Alaskan species. The plants, large and finely developed, were growing in the shade of boulders at the base of the precipitous sea-wall, but they had been so freely nibbled by the nesting gulls that it was impossible to secure much perfect material. Such plants as were collected are beautifully matched by specimens from Unalaska, Behring Island, and shores of the Ochotsk Sea.

Draba borealis is very quickly distinguished from the local *D. megasperma*, to which it is nearest related, by its larger more numerous leaves, very loose elongate pubescence, and by the longer-pedicelled siliques which are oblong-lanceolate, strongly twisted, and, including the prominent styles (1 mm. or more long), in maturity becoming 1.5 to 1.8 cm. long. — M. L. FERNALD, Gray Herbarium.

THE FERN ALLIES.² — Mr. Clute's recently issued work on the fern allies is similar in character to his "Our Ferns in their Haunts." By devoting a whole volume to a restricted group of plants the author has been able to give considerable space to each species and thus state at length and in popular language facts concerning the habits and habitats, which have ordinarily been compressed into a few terse and technical expressions. It is well known that species and varieties in the fern allies are somewhat vague in their natural limitation and consequently subject to widely different interpretation. The author has wisely refrained from excessive splitting and has evidently endeavored to make his nomenclature conservative. He has not, however, been able to refrain from framing a few new and, at least in some cases, quite needless combinations, as for instance

¹ RHODORA, vii. 65.

² The Fern Allies of North America North of Mexico by Willard Nelson Clute, with illustrations by Ida Martin Clute; 8vo, xiv, and 278 pp.; F. A. Stokes Co., New York.